

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05048 301821Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 PA-01 TRSE-00 CTME-00 OC-06
CCO-00 SSO-00 /027 W
-----014892 301831Z /50
O 301749Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8240
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BOGOTA 5048

DEPT FOR MS FALCO S/NM; DEPT ASST SECY ARRELLANO ARA/LA
DEA FOR ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING JULIO CESAR TURBAY

REF: A. BOGOTA 3292 B. STATE 70158

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY TWO SOURCES THAT MAY 7 BALTIMORE SUN ARTICLE BY TIMOTHY ROSS (REF A) IS IN HANDS OF ALL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WHICH ARE DEBATING IF AN WHEN TO PUBLISH IT. ROSS ARTICLE INTER ALIA REFERS TO ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED US CUSTOMS CLASSIFIED REPORT (REF B) THAT TURBAY WHEN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON ALLOWED USE OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH TO FACILITATE NARCOTICS TRANSACTIONS.
2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS INFORMANT IN US CUSTOMS REPORT WAS TOO FAR REMOVED FROM ALLEGED INCIDENTS INVOLVING TURBAY FOR THE INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN CREDENCE. ALLEGATIONS WERE THEREFORE DROPPED FROM CORRUPTION BRIEFING GIVEN PRESIDENT LOPEZ BY BOURNE AND BENSINGER.
3. WITH ONLY FOUR DAYS REMAINING UNTIL COLOMBIAN

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, REPUBLICATION OF ROSS ARTICLE LOCALLY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL REPRE-
CUSSIONS. PROMINENT TURBAY SUPPORTER HAS INDICATED HE BELIEVES TURBAY POLITICAL APPARATUS HAS SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE TO KEEP STORY FROM APPEARING. HOWEVER, THIS MAY WELL BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC EVALUATION GIVEN DAMAGING PRESSURES THAT EXIST.

4. USG MUST BE PREPARED FOR EVENTUALITY THAT STORY APPEARS
HERE. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AS TO HOW SITUATION SHOULD
BE HANDLED BY EMBASSY ARE REQUESTED SOONEST.
ASENCIO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: SNAR, CO, SUN, (TURBAY, JULIO CESAR), (ROSS, TIMOTHY)
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